Burringham.
via Doncaster.
January 31st 1896.

To the

Chairman

of the Urban District Council of Brumby & Frodingham.

Sir,

The Medical Officer of Health is required by Art. 18, sec. 14 of the Local Government Board's Order dated March 1891 to make an annual report on the health of the district under his care. Such report is to be for the year ending Dec. 31st, & the subjects it is to embrace are prescribed in sec. 14 of the above named Order.

The report which I now have the honour to submit to you, is for the year ended Dec. 31st 1895 & is made in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Board's Order.

I am

Sir

Your obedient servant.

M. R. J. Behrendt,

M. B. H

Report on the Health of the Urban District of Brumby & Frodingham. 1895.

Preliminary. – The parishes of Brumby & Frodingham were constituted an urban district towards the end of 1894. This district extends from the river Trent in the west to near the foot of the "Cliff" in the west. Its northern limit is formed by the boundary line which divides the parishes of Frodingham & Scunthorpe, the southern limit being the boundary line which separates the parishes of Brumby & Ashby.

The total estimated area of the district is 4053 acres – Brumby 3024, & Frodingham 1019 acres.

From the Trent in the west to the Lias escarpment eastward of it the soil is alluvium, subsoil peat. Thence eastward the district lies on the lias lime stones & clays. New Frodingham itself rests on the edge of the outcrop of the Frodingham Ironstone bed.

The great bulk of the population is massed in the compact villages of New Frodingham, & New Brumby. The houses are more widely separated in the villages of Old Brumby (which is the larger) & Old Frodingham. To the east of New Frodingham & separated by a considerable space from it are two rows of cottages one near the Redbourne Hill Ironworks, the other near the North Lincoln Ironworks. Westward from the Lias escarpment there lie scattered several farmsteads & groups of cottages with sparse population. The manufacture of iron & steel, the mining of ironstone, & agriculture give employment to the great majority of the people.

Infectious & Zymotic Diseases.

A. Notifiable. – The following diseases were notified during the year:–

Scarlatina – 14 cases. The earliest notification was dated Aug 12th. & the infection was brought from Ashby. The disease was limited to New Brumby & New Frodingham, no notifications having come from any other part of the district.

Erysipelas – 2 cases were reported, one in New Brumby, & one in the Railway Co's cottages at New Frodingham.

Enteric Fever – one case was reported, that of a youth who had been employed at Sandhouse, & had been living with the foreman. At about the same time another youth also employed at Sandhouse & living with the same foreman returned home to Scawby ill, & his illness was also reported to be enteric fever. A third youth also working on the same farm had to return to his home ill, but his illness is said to have been erysipelas. At the cottage where these youths had lived, there was a pigstye built against

the walls of the house; the walls of the house near the foundations were very damp, the bedrooms were without fire places, & without any sufficient provision for ventilation. The foreman & his family had lived there for several years, & there was no record of serious illness among them.—The three youths however had been in the habit of drinking water from a well in the foldyard at Sandhouse. Analysis of water drawn from that well gave the following results: — It was very turbid, & contained large particles of floating matter. The colour through a 24 inch column was brownish red. The free ammonia amounted to .093 parts per million, & the albuminoid ammonia .09 per million, & chlorine 3.1 grs per gal. — A sample taken from another well about 40 ft. from the latter & near the house gave the following result: — The water was clear. Free Ammonia .02 pts per million, albuminoid ammonia .06 per million, & chlorine 3.1 grs per gal. The water drawn from the pump in the foldyard was therefore polluted. (To prevent its further use for drinking purposes I advised that the well should be done away with, & the Council made an order to this effect). — There was said to have been frequent illness among the cattle on this farm, the water from this well being suspected as the cause of it.

B. Not Notifiable.

Diarrhoea — four deaths were registered as due to this cause, 3 of these were in the 3rd & 1 in the 4th quarter. All were of children under 6 months old. These four deaths do not however give any definite information as to the amount of such illness prevailing in the district; it must have been considerable.

Phthisis. — Two deaths from this disease have been registered during the year.

Measures taken to prevent the spreading of infectious disease.

Attempts were made to separate the sick from the healthy members of families. But these were never sufficiently complete nor could they be so under the circumstances. In the houses where infectious disease did occur there was no suitable room for the purpose of isolation, & where mothers have to do the nursing & at the same time manage the household generally, isolation of the patient can be a name only, for indirect touch between the patient & other members of the family never ceases. Other measures taken were: Children from infected homes were forbidden school attendance. Lists of such homes were sent to the school. Disinfectants were used in the sickrooms. In the Enteric Fever case, the stools were ordered to be received in disinfectants, & buried at a safe distance from houses & wells, not placed in the box of the closet. — People generally appeared to be unaware of their duties in respect of notification of infectious disease, & the penalties they might incur for carelessly or wilfully spreading infection. To remedy this handbills were distributed giving the necessary information.

Inspections of the District – were made in a systematic manner, partial inspections being made as circumstances seemed to require. To begin with, the district was found in a filthy & neglected condition. The appearance of the back streets was disgraceful, particularly that behind the Cottage Hospital. At New Brumby filthy & faulty ash-pits, privies with no provision against polluting the soil, & often with deep vaults abounded. Many such & other matters occupy the pages of the Inspector's Report Book; the abstract statement of the Inspector which accompanies this report will give an idea of the state of things which required the orders & directions of the Council. As a result of the action taken, the condition of the district in respect of nuisances has very much improved.

Water. The present supply is from surface wells. Quality & quantity are both deficient. Instances of well-water polluted & unusable were met with in New Brumby. – A proposal had been made to the Council to obtain a public supply from the "Goosehole". Analysis of water from this source made both before & after softening, shewed that it was too hard & contained far too large a proportion of sulphates to be suited to a public supply. Analysis of water from the Midland Ironstone Co's pit was also made, & though the result was better than the other, I was not able to recommend it for purposes of public supply owing to its source, being a surface water liable to contamination.

Statistical. – The population according to the last census numbered 2140, viz Brumby 756 & Frodingham 1384. In 1881 the numbers were Total District 1866; Brumby 203 & Frodingham 1663. This would appear to shew that whilst Brumby had greatly increased, Frodingham had declined. Such however is not the case. Both places have increased since 1881, but in the census of that year New Brumby returns were included with those for Frodingham. I estimate the whole population to June 30th last at 2321, & assuming that Brumby & Frodingham are increasing at the same rate, Brumby at 820, & Frodingham at 1501.

During the year 95 births were registered; boys 38, girls 57, the birth rate for the whole district therefore was 40·9.

The number of deaths registered was 32 – males 14, females 18, the death rate was thus 13·8 per 1000 of population.

Of infants under 12 months old 18 died, & the infantile mortality was 189 per 1000 births. This is a high rate, considerably above the average of the whole country during the 10 years 1881 to 1890, viz 142 per 1000 births. As to the cause of these 18 deaths: 7 were from developmental defects; 4 from diarrhoea; 3 from

diseases of the breathing organs; 2 from tubercular diseases; & 1 each Syphilis & convulsions. Nearly a quarter of the deaths of children under a year old was due to diarrhoea.

Concluding Remarks. – It is very satisfactory to be able to record a considerable improvement in the general condition of the district by the removal of nuisances, & by the measures taken to prevent their recurrence. The large infantile mortality, & more especially that part of it due to diarrhoea, however points to continued effort being required. In this the Public Authority should have the assistance of the public generally, & doubtless this would be forthcoming more than at present, if the difficulty of obtaining water were removed. At New Frodingham many people have to go considerable distances to get water, & this does not tend to free use where required for cleanliness. A good supply of pure water would also shut out the dangers to health which are inherent in a supply liable to become polluted with matter charged with the germs of disease. It is to be hoped that the Council's labours in this direction may soon be crowned with success.

The difficulty of securing satisfactory isolation of persons suffering from infectious disease also requires consideration, & would be best met by the erection of an isolation hospital. Probably the best & most economical way of doing this would be by cooperation with the neighbour Authority of Scunthorpe. This would save the cost of building two administrative blocks, & the hospital being larger would also be more likely to ensure the requirements as to beds.

M. R. J. Behrendt.
M. O. H.

The Inspector's statement is as follows: –

Premises inspected & reinspected	1300	Filthy yard	1
Privies & ashpits defective	68	Untrapped cesspools	2
Accumulations of filth – removed	2	Defective ventilation (bedrooms)	1
Pool containing sewage – drained	1	Flooring rotten, no ventilation	2
Defective & broken traps	2	Bedroom unhealthy from damp, & defective ceiling	1
Sewers requiring cleansing	1	Nuisance within dwelling from defective drain	1
Pigs kept causing nuisance	6		
Privy accommodation required	1		
Drainage ordered	3		
Animals causing nuisance	1		
Clerk's orders served	17		

The orders of the Council in respect to the above have been carried out.

J. Spavin.
Inspector.

Inspections: —

Ordinary	2600
Special on complaint	19
Of 6 Slaughter Houses	64
" 2 Fishmongers premises	24
" 6 Workshops	6
" houses completed for occupation	67
" articles of food	30
" Crosby Sewer, piping of	43
" outfall sewer, widening of	23
Clerks orders served	29
" " posted	8
Letters written	39
Plans of Dwelling Houses —	
approved	82
returned for amendment	26
" " Other Buildings —	
approved	11
returned for amendment	2
rejected	2
Nuisances — (reported & abated)	
from drains	23
" privies & ashpits	16
" Defective boxes to closets	53
" accumulations of manure	13
" polluted wells	1
" yards in bad condition	4
" wet & filthy road-way	1
" pig keeping	5
" smoke	1
Proceedings taken	1

The above is an abstract from my books, shewing the work done in the year ending Decr. 31st. 1895.

Walter Holt.
Inspector & Surveyor.